

RABIES (Animal)

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An almost invariably fatal acute encephalomyelitis caused by the rabies virus.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory confirmation.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Detection of rabies viral antigens by direct fluorescent antibody test performed on central nervous system tissue, **OR**
 - Isolation of rabies virus in cell culture or an inoculated laboratory animal.
- D. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** A laboratory confirmed infection with rabies virus .

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE:** None required.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:** None requested. The Kentucky Department for Laboratory Services notifies the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning of positive rabies diagnosis.
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- For follow-up on known rabid animals, ascertain the nature of all physical contact the animal had with humans or other animals during the two weeks prior to its death. Obtain information regarding contact with saliva or saliva-contaminated fomites during this time period.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND HEALTH PLANNING, STATE PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN:** 502-564-3418.
- B. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, DEPARTMENT FOR LABORATORY SERVICES:** 502-564-4446.

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2000: National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. MMWR 2000; Vol. 49 (No. RR-8).
2. Chin, James, ed. RABIES. In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000: 411 -419.
3. Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 1999: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 1999; 48 (No. RR-1).
4. Pickering, LK, ed. Rabies. In: 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 25th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: 475-482.